

Table 7b.

Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011

(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2009)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months) ¹	90 percent C.I. ² (+/-)
All People	6.6	0.5
Race and Hispanic Origin		
White ³	6.2	0.5
White, non-Hispanic ⁴	6.0	0.6
Black ³	8.5	0.5
Hispanic ⁴	6.5	0.8
Non-Hispanic	6.6	0.6
Age		
Under 18 years	7.0	0.9
18 to 64 years	6.3	0.5
65 years and over	8.3	0.3
Sex		
Male	6.2	0.5
Female	7.0	0.6
Educational Attainment⁵ (people 18 years and over)		
Less than 4 years of high school	8.4	0.4
High school graduate, no college	7.0	0.8
One of more years of college	5.1	0.4
Disability Status (people 15 to 69 years)		
With a work disability	8.2	0.4
With no work disability	5.9	0.5
Residence		
Metropolitan	6.4	0.5
Nonmetropolitan	7.7	1.0
Region		
Northeast	6.7	1.4
Midwest	6.1	0.9
South	7.9	0.7
West	5.4	0.8

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 7b.

Median Length of Poverty Spells by Selected Characteristics: 2009 to 2011 - Con.

(In months, excluding spells underway in January 2009)

Characteristic	Median spell length (months) ¹	90 percent C.I. ² (+/-)
Family Status		
In families	6.5	0.6
With related children under 18 years	6.8	0.7
In married-couple families	5.6	0.7
With related children under 18 years	5.9	0.7
In families with a female householder, no husband present	8.4	0.4
With related children under 18 years	8.5	0.5
In families with a male householder, no wife present	6.8	2.9
With related children under 18 years	7.3	3.1
Unrelated individuals	7.1	1.0
Employment and Labor Force Status (people 18 years and over)		
Employed absent from work	4.5	0.3
Employed full-time	4.8	0.1
Employed part-time	6.1	0.6
Unemployed	7.0	0.9
Not in labor force	8.3	0.2
Marital Status (people 18 years and over)		
Married	5.4	0.6
Separated, divorced, or widowed	8.2	0.3
Never married	6.7	0.6
Family Size		
1 person (unrelated individual)	7.1	1.0
2 people	5.7	0.8
3 people	7.2	1.2
4 people	6.3	1.1
5 people	6.6	1.6
6 or more people	6.6	0.9

¹ Due to changes in the estimation of survival rates, estimates of median spell length presented in this report are not comparable with estimates of median spell length reported in previous P70 Dynamics of Economic Well-Being series. See Limitations on page 15 for details of this change.

² A 90 percent confidence interval (C.I.) is a measure of an estimate's variability. The larger the confidence interval in relation to the size of the estimate, the less reliable the estimate.

³ Federal surveys, including the SIPP 2004 and 2008 Panel, give respondents the option of reporting more than one race. These data can be shown in two ways: (1) as mutually exclusive from other race groups, which may be denoted by "alone" or (2) not mutually exclusive with other race groups, denoted by "alone or in combination with other race groups." The figures, tables, and text in this report show race using the first method.

⁴ Hispanics may be any race, data in this report for Hispanics overlap data for racial groups. Data users should exercise caution when interpreting aggregate results for these groups because they consist of many distinct subgroups that differ in socioeconomic characteristics, culture, and recency of immigration.

⁵ In the 2004 and 2008 SIPP Panels, educational attainment variables were incorrectly coded for some respondents starting in Wave 2. Corrected files have been rereleased for the 2008 Panel for Waves 2 to 5, and starting in Wave 6, the corrected values were automatically included in the initial person-level data files. Corrected files were also rereleased for Waves 2 to 12 of the 2004 Panel. These estimates reflect those corrections to the educational attainment variables.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Survey of Income and Program Participation, 2008 Panel. For information on confidentiality protection and sampling and nonsampling error, see <www.census.gov/sipp/source.html>.